

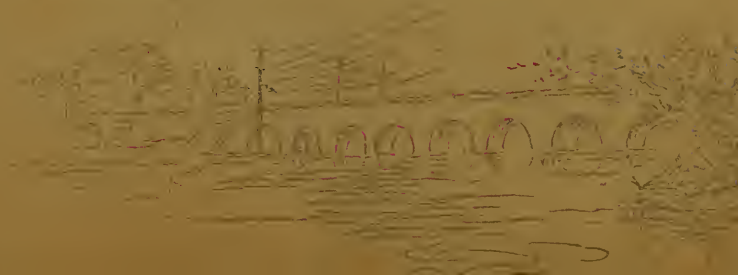
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The Conestoga River



The Conestoga River



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The Reason Why



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This little brochure owes its existence to an almost life-long friendship with an associate, and to a personal appreciation of deserving local literature. Mr. Frank R. Diffenderffer's "Plea for the Conestoga River," read before the Lancaster County Historical Society, was both timely and suggestive, calling into activity the graceful pen of Lloyd Mifflin, Litt.D., a gentleman of more than national fame, whose literary work has placed him in the front rank of American poets, and whose noble sonnet on our beautiful Conestoga will be found in these pages.

The illustrations are by local artists, and the various views of our historic water-course will commend themselves to every lover of the beautiful in nature and art.



Andrew H. Hershey.

Gift-

Wm. F. Morner

9.25.22

Frank R. Diffenderffer, Litt. D.

On his 80th Birthday





FRANK R. DIFFENDERFFER, LITT. D.



RANK RIED DIFFENDERFFER, Litt.D., was born April 30, 1833, of German ancestry, his great-great-grandfather having settled near New Holland in 1727; attended the schools of that town; in 1849 entered the Academy of Marshall College, Mercersburg. Later became a book-seller in Lancaster. In 1857 took up the pursuit of merchandizing in Ciudad Juarez, Mex., remaining there until 1871 when he returned to Lancaster. When The New Era newspaper was established in 1877, he assumed the position of Associate Editor which he has retained until the present time. In addition to his duties on The New Era, Dr. Diffenderffer has found time to write a number of historical works. In 1876 he published "The Three Earls," in 1897 "The German Exodus to England, 1709"; in 1900 "The German Immigration into Pennsylvania through the Port of Philadelphia" and "The Redemptioners" in 1900: same year delivered an address on "The Palatine and Quaker as Commonwealth Builders," before the Historical Society of Penna.; in 1910 he prepared an extended "History of the Farmers National Bank." In addition he has con-

tributed nearly two score of papers to the Proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, of which he was one of the founders and for seven years the Secretary. Was Secretary of the Fremont Club of Lancaster in 1856. Was one of the founders of the Penna. German Society, its Secretary for three years, and then its President. Is a member of the Penna. Historical Society, member of the Penna. History Club, was President of the Penna. Federation of Historical Societies in 1910; is a member of the American Historical Association and was appointed a member of the Advisory Commission for the Preservation of the Public Records by Governor Pennypacker in 1903, and continuously until the present time.



To the
Conestoga River near Lancaster in June
Sonnet

By Lloyd Milfin





THE CONESTOGA RIVER ABOVE "BINKLEY'S BRIDGE."

Within the shadow which the foliage throws
The drowsing rattle by the waters dream ;
The white arms of the trees above thee gleam ;
And on thy slopes the ripening harvest glows.
From meadows of the hay the fragrance blows
Sweeter than all Arabia ! . . . What a theme
For revery thou art, O pastoral stream,
Idyllic in thy beauty and repose.



WITMER'S BRIDGE. "NINE ARCHES HATH THY BRIDGE OF CLASSIC MOULD."

Nine arches hath thy Bridge of classic mould—
One for each Muse—clear mirrored on thy breast ;
Amid this quiet of the evening hours
Tranquil thou flowest toward yon waste of gold,
Where, shadowed 'gainst the fulgence of the West,
The stately College lifts her clustered towers.

Suggested by a paper on the Conestoga "River," read before The Lancaster County Historical Society, January 5, 1912, by F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt.D.

L. M.





THE CONESTOGA RIVER ALONG THE "BUTTER ROAD."

"Pennsylvania is one of the best-watered states on the American continent. There are, perhaps, a thousand streams within her borders which, in any European country, would be called rivers, while not even a baker's dozen of them are spoken of as rivers here at home."

* * * * *

"I shall not make my appeal to sentiment only, but to what the verdict of the past 5000 years has been. I shall show you that some of the greatest events of all time have occurred on the banks of streams no larger, nor as large as the Conestoga, and that their names have come down to us in song and story, linked with the heroic deeds of the ages."

* * * * *

"The number of its affluents, large and small, is from two to four hundred. To ask us to call such a stream a creek, is a proposition that offends human intelligence."

"One of the most beautiful streams in the world flows quietly through the green meadows and along the sunny braes of Lancaster county for a distance of more than sixty miles, draining a territory 315 square miles in area, affording endless themes of beauty to the brush of the painter and the fancy of the poet."

* * * * *

"It is the Conestoga 'Creek' to most of our people 'and it is nothing more'; yet it is a river in all that constitutes a river, just as truly as are some of the most noted streams of the world which have been called rivers for thousands of years."

* * * * *

"Our Conestoga has borne its present misnomer long enough. Let no member of this Society ever again speak or write about it as a 'creek.' Call it what it really is, and what it deserves to be called —the CONESTOGA RIVER."

—From a "Plea for the Conestoga River," by F. R. Diffenderffer.



LLOYD MIFFLIN, LITT.D.

To the Onondaga River near Lancaster in June

Sonnet

By Lloyd Mifflin

Within the shadow which the foliage throws
The drowsing cattle by the waters dream;
The white arms of the trees above thee gleam,
And on thy slopes the ripening harvest glows;
From meadows of the lay the fragrance flows
Sweeter than all Arabia!... What a theme
For reverent thought, O pastoral stream,
Idyllic in thy beauty and repose!

Nine arches hath thy Bridge of classic mould —
One for each Muse — clear-mirrored on thy breast;
Amid this quiet of the evening hours
Fraught with flow'ers toward yon waste of gold,
Where, shadowed 'gainst the fulgence of the West,
The stately College lifts her clustered towers.

Lloyd Mifflin, Litt. D.



LOYD MIFFLIN, poet and painter, was born at the family homestead, "Norwood," near Columbia, Lancaster County, Pa., September 15, 1846; he still lives at his ancestral home. His father, J. Houston Mifflin, was an artist of rare touch and a poet of exquisite fancy. Lloyd Mifflin was educated in classic schools and under private tutors. He became an art pupil of his father and of Thomas Moran and pursued his studies in Germany and Italy. After much work of high merit he turned his attention to literature, adopting the sonnet as his special mode of poetic expression; he has produced six hundred sonnets, many of them eliciting from learned British and American critics the highest praise, and the great body of his work entitling him to rank with the masters of English verse. Many of these are gathered together in "Collected Sonnets," published by Henry

Frowde, Oxford Press, London. Other publications of his verse are The Hills, 1896; At the Gates of Song, 1897-1901; Year Book, with quotations, 1897; Memorial Day Ode, 1897; The Slopes of Helicon, and Other Poems, 1898; Echoes of Greek Idyls, 1899; The Fields of Dawn and Later Sonnets, 1900; Ode on the Semi-Centennial of Franklin and Marshall College, 1903; Castalian Days, 1903; The Fleeing Nymph and Other Verse, 1905; My Lady of Dream, 1906; Toward the Uplands, 1908; Flower and Thorn, 1909.

Mr. Mifflin has a peculiar appreciation of the landscape beauties of his native county, and is never more felicitous in expression than when depicting them in song or on canvas.

W. U. HENSEL.



“ ‘Life-like the Summer leaves,
 Fade once forever !
Life-like this gliding stream
 Flows backward never ?
 On to the silent sea,
 On to eternity,’
Thus sing thy waves to me,
 O Conestoga.”



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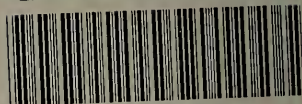
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